India all such crimes are already treated as murder punishable with the highest punishment under IPC.

Road accidents in India

*167. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 280 people die in road accidents everyday in our country and more than 90 per cent of pedestrians feel unsafe while crossing road as per survey conducted by Central Road Research Institute (CRRI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that India accounts for 10 per cent of the total accidents in the world and International Road Federation has set a target of reducing fatal road accidents in India by 50 per cent by 2010; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) conducted a study in April, 2008 which indicated that 90% of the pedestrians in Delhi feel that the roads have become unsafe. This study was limited to urban intersections in Delhi alone. Therefore, it does not provide picture of the entire country. However, as per the data available for the last five years, on an average 271 persons die in road accidents in the country every day. India's share in total road accidents in the world is only 5.6% compared to its share in the world population of around 17.5%.

The detailed point-wise reply is given in the Statement.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per the data available for road accidents for the last five years (2003-2007), on an average 271 people die in road accidents every day. A survey conducted by Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) on "Pedestrian Safety at Urban Intersections in Delhi' in April, 2008 indicates that around 90% pedestrians feel that the situation has become more unsafe after widening the roads during the last five years. The reasons for unsafe roads as brought out in the survey report are complex nature of intersections, decrease in size of footpaths and increase in vehicle speed. Since the survey conducted by Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) is limited to the urban intersections in Delhi only, it cannot be construed as the feeling of pedestrians for the country as a whole.

(c) and (d) The latest edition of the World Road Statistics 2008, brought out by the International Road Federation, has reported a total of 78,84,804 road accidents in 122 countries for the year 2006

wherever available and for previous year(s) otherwise. India's figure (for 2005) reported at 4,39,200 works out to a 5.6 percent share of the total road accidents. The International Road Federation during two-day conference on "Mobility and Safety in Road Transport" held in October, 2008 in Delhi resolved and urged all the stake holders to work collectively to reduce road accident fatalities by 50% in the next three years. Other recommendations of the IRF Conference include involvement of all stake holders in the national mission, display of suitable road safety messages along highways, airports etc., coverage of road safety messages both in print and electronic media, development of excellent traffic management skills, specific design and planning of urban roads, application of intelligent transport system, higher allocation of funds for safety features in road system, etc.

Highway projects pending in Bihar

*168. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several highway projects are pending in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the enhancement of lanes on existing roads;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these projects are taking more time than expected;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps Government is taking for early completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Yes. Sir. Some projects for four laning of NH 2, 31, 57 and 28 have been delayed. Details of these projects including present progress, schedule date of completion, likely date of completion and reasons for delay are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(e) Steps taken for early completion of the projects are:-

i) All efforts are being made for making the balance encumbrance free site available to contractors.

ii) Targets are being fixed as per revised work programme and being monitored at every level.

iii) Supplementary Agreements are being entered fixing the minimum monthly progress wherever the contractor's performance is very poor.

iv) Frequent meetings by the top officials of NHAI with State Government officials are being made to clear the above impediments.